BEFORE THE ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

In the Matter of

JAMES D. LOO, M.D.

License No. 22743
For the Practice of Allopathic Medicine
In the State of Arizona.

Case No. MD-09-0540A

ORDER FOR LETTER OF REPRIMAND AND PROBATION AND CONSENT TO SAME THE CONSENT

James D. Loo, M.D. ("Respondent") elects to permanently waive any right to a hearing and appeal with respect to this Order for Letter of Reprimand and Probation; admits the jurisdiction of the Arizona Medical Board ("Board"); and consents to the entry of this Order by the Board.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
- 2. Respondent is the holder of license number 22743 for the practice of allopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
- 3. The Board initiated case number MD-09-0540A after receiving a complaint regarding Respondent's care and treatment of a twenty-one year-old female patient ("BK").
- 4. On March 13, 2009, Respondent began treating BK for various medical issues that included alcohol and benzodiazepine abuse and opiate withdrawal. Respondent treated BK with Phenobarbital, Vistaril, and Clonidine and later added oral Suboxone to her treatment regimen. There was no documentation of the induction phase of Suboxone and the effects of the medication on BK. There also was no documentation of a detailed substance abuse history, whether Respondent obtained BK's previous treatment records, or whether he had her sign an opioid substance treatment agreement. Additionally, several progress notes in the record were illegible.

- 5. On April 17, 2009, Respondent went to a bar where BK was employed, drank alcoholic beverages with her, and later asked her to drive him home. On May 30, 2009, BK presented to a medical center and received treatment for opiate related and alcohol withdrawal. During an investigational interview with Board Staff on June 16, 2009, Respondent admitted that he offered BK a drink at the bar while he was treating her for addiction.
- 6. The standard of care requires a physician to maintain appropriate boundaries in patient/physician relationship and when treating a patient with addictive disorders to advise the patient to avoid consuming alcohol. When treating a patient with opiate withdrawal symptoms the standard of care in Suboxone induction requires a physician to avoid prescribing ancillary medications prior to initiation of it and to prescribe Suboxone sublingually.
- 7. Respondent deviated from the standard of care because he did not maintain appropriate boundaries in his patient/physician relationship with BK and he did not advise BK to avoid consuming alcohol. Respondent also deviated from the standard of because he did not avoid prescribing ancillary medications to BK prior to Suboxone induction and he did not prescribe Suboxone sublingually.
- 8. BK may potentially have difficulty trusting other physicians in the future. Additionally, there was potential for treatment failure.
- 9. A physician is required to maintain adequate legible medical records containing, at a minimum, sufficient information to identify the patient, support the diagnosis, justify the treatment, accurately document the results, indicate advice and cautionary warnings provided to the patient and provide sufficient information for another practitioner to assume continuity of the patient's care at any point in the course of treatment. A.R.S. § 32-1401(2). Respondent's records were inadequate because several

progress notes in the record were illegible; there was no documented induction phase of Suboxone or the effects of the medication on BK, no documented detailed substance abuse history, whether Respondent obtained BK's previous treatment record or whether he had her sign an opioid substance treatment agreement.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Board possesses jurisdiction over the subject matter hereof and over Respondent.
- 2. The conduct and circumstances described above constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(e) ("[f]ailing or refusing to maintain adequate records on a patient.") and A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(q) ("[a]ny conduct or practice that is or might be harmful or dangerous to the health of the patient or the public.").

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Respondent is issued a Letter of Reprimand.
- 2. Respondent is placed on probation for **one year** with the following terms and conditions:
- a. Respondent shall within **six months** of the effective date of this Order obtain **15 20 hours** of Board Staff pre-approved Category I Continuing Medical Education (CME) in a **comprehensive boundaries course**. Respondent shall provide Board Staff with satisfactory proof of attendance. The CME hours shall be in addition to the hours required for the biennial renewal of medical license. The probation shall terminate upon successful completion CME.

b. Obey All Laws

Respondent shall obey all state, federal and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in Arizona, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.

c. Tolling

In the event Respondent should leave Arizona to reside or practice outside the State or for any reason should Respondent stop practicing medicine in Arizona, Respondent shall notify the Executive Director in writing within ten days of departure and return or the dates of non-practice within Arizona. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding thirty days during which Respondent is not engaging in the practice of medicine. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside Arizona or of non-practice within Arizona, will not apply to the reduction of the probationary period.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE this // day of APRIL , 2010.



ARIZONA MEDICAL BOARD

Lisa S. Wynn Executive Director

CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

- 1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and the stipulated Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Order"). Respondent acknowledges he has the right to consult with legal counsel regarding this matter.
- 2. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that this Order is entered into freely and voluntarily and that no promise was made or coercion used to induce such entry.
- 3. By consenting to this Order, Respondent voluntarily relinquishes any rights to a hearing or judicial review in state or federal court on the matters alleged, or to challenge

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this Order in its entirety as issued by the Board, and waives any other cause of action related thereto or arising from said Order.

- The Order is not effective until approved by the Board and signed by its 4. Executive Director.
- All admissions made by Respondent are solely for final disposition of this 5. matter and any subsequent related administrative proceedings or civil litigation involving the Board and Respondent. Therefore, said admissions by Respondent are not intended or made for any other use, such as in the context of another state or federal government regulatory agency proceeding, civil or criminal court proceeding, in the State of Arizona or any other state or federal court.
- 6. Upon signing this agreement, and returning this document (or a copy thereof) to the Board's Executive Director, Respondent may not revoke the consent to the entry of the Order. Respondent may not make any modifications to the document. Any modifications to this original document are ineffective and void unless mutually approved by the parties.
- 7. This Order is a public record that will be publicly disseminated as a formal disciplinary action of the Board and will be reported to the National Practitioner's Data Bank and on the Board's web site as a disciplinary action.
- 8. If any part of the Order is later declared void or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the Order in its entirety shall remain in force and effect.
- 9. If the Board does not adopt this Order, Respondent will not assert as a defense that the Board's consideration of the Order constitutes bias, prejudice, prejudgment or other similar defense.
- Any violation of this Order constitutes unprofessional conduct and may result 10. in disciplinary action. A.R.S. § § 32-1401(27)(r) ("[v]iolating a formal order, probation,

1	consent agreement or stipulation issued or entered into by the board or its executive
2	director under this chapter") and 32-1451.
3	11. Respondent acknowledges that, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2533(E), he cannot
4	act as a supervising physician for a physician assistant while his license is under
5	probation.
6	12. Respondent has read and understands the conditions of probation.
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8	January DATED: 1/22/10
9	JAMES D\ LOO, M.D.
10	EXECUTED COPY of the foregoing mailed
11	this day of favority, 2010 to:
12	Daniel P. Jantsch Olson, Jantsch, & Bakker, P.A.
13	7243 16 th Street Phoenix, Arizona 85020-7250
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15	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this foregoing filed this day of an
16	Arizona Medical Board
17	9545 E. Doubletree Ranch Road Scottsdale, AZ 85258
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19	Arizona Medical Board Staff
20	Alizona Medical Board Stan
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